

an immersive virtual reality environment;
at least one performer input device in electronic communication with said immersive virtual reality environment;
at least one participant input device in electronic communication with said immersive virtual reality environment;
at least one performer output device in electronic communication with said immersive virtual reality environment;
at least one participant output device in electronic communication with said immersive virtual reality environment;
wherein at least one live performer interacts with at least one participant and said immersive virtual reality environment;

wherein said virtual reality environment includes a live or prerecorded video image of the performer;

wherein at least one participant interacts with the live performer and said immersive virtual reality environment, thereby resulting in an experience which is in part controlled by the participant and said participant input device.

2. (Resubmitted) The system of claim 1 wherein said immersive virtual reality environment further comprises:

at least one processing device;
system data;
output data; and

a network, said network connecting said processing device, said performer input and output devices, and said participant input and output devices in electronic communication, thereby transmitting said system data and said output data to the performer and the participant.

3. (Resubmitted) The system of claim 2 wherein said participant output device further comprising:

at least one seat;
at least one virtual reality display; and
at least one participant audio device;

said participant input device further comprising:

at least one hand-held keypad; and
at least one participant microphone;
said performer output device further comprising:
at least one live video image of the participant; and
at least one speaker, said speaker transmitting said
participant microphone input to the performer;
said performer input means further comprising:
at least one live video image of the performer; and
at least one performer microphone;
wherein the participant views said output data from said
immersive virtual reality environment and said live video image of
the performer through said virtual reality display and provides
feedback to said immersive virtual reality environment through said
hand-held keypad and said participant microphone.

4. (Resubmitted) The system of claim 3 wherein said output
data further comprises:

graphical images; and
audio data.

5. (Resubmitted) The system of claim 4 wherein said seat
further comprises:

a rumble seat, said rumble seat providing sound and
movement to the participant.

6. (Resubmitted) The system of claim 5 wherein said
processing device further comprises:

at least one control computer;
at least one audio processor;
at least one audio switcher;
at least one video processor; and
at least one video switcher;

wherein said control computer processes and distributes
data from said performer input and output devices and said
participant input and output devices;

said audio processor processes said participant microphone input, said performer microphone input, and said audio data in accordance with said system data of said control computer;

said audio switcher switches said participant microphone input, said performer microphone input, and said audio data in accordance with said system data of said control computer;

said video processor processes said live video image of the participant, said live video image of the performer, and said graphical images in accordance with said system data of said control computer; and

said video switcher switches said live video image of the performer with said graphical data in accordance with said system data of said control computer;

thereby selectively providing said graphical images, said audio data, and said live video image of the performer in said virtual reality display, and selectively providing said participant microphone input, said performer microphone input, and said audio data to said participant audio output means.

7. (Resubmitted) The system of claim 6, said immersive virtual reality environment further comprising:

a control station;

said control computer further comprising:

a registration computer;

said system data further comprising:

participant information;

wherein the participants register participant information into said registration computer for interactive use in said immersive virtual reality environment.

8. (Amended once) A system which interacts with participants and performers, said system comprising:

an immersive virtual reality environment, said immersive virtual reality environment further comprising:

at least one processing device;

system data;

output data; and
a network;

at least one performer input device in electronic communication with said immersive virtual reality environment;

at least one participant input device in electronic communication with said immersive virtual reality environment;

at least one performer output device in electronic communication with said immersive virtual reality environment;

wherein at least one live performer interacts with at least one participant and said immersive virtual reality environment, and said virtual reality environment includes a live or prerecorded video image of the performer;

wherein at least one participant interacts with the live performer and said immersive virtual reality environment, thereby resulting in an experience which is in part controlled by the participant and said participant input device;

said network connecting said processing device, said performer input and output devices, and said participant input and output devices in electronic communication, thereby transmitting said system data and said output data to the performer and the participant, and

said network connecting said immersive virtual reality environment and said participant input and output devices across the Internet.

9. A method of providing interactive communications between participants and performers comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an immersive virtual reality environment
(b) providing at least one performer input device in electronic communication with said immersive virtual reality environment;

(c) providing at least one participant input device in electronic communication with said immersive virtual reality environment;

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(d) providing at least one performer output device in electronic communication with said immersive virtual reality environment;

(e) providing at least one participant output device in electronic communication with said immersive virtual reality environment;

(f) having at least one performer interact with at least one participant and said immersive virtual reality environment, by including with said virtual reality environment a live or pre-recorded video image of the live performer;

(g) having at least one participant interact with at least one such live performer and said immersive virtual reality environment, thereby resulting in an experience which is in part controlled by the participant and said participant input device.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicant herewith submits formal drawings to replace the informal drawings filed with the application. No new matter is included.

REMARKS

With close attention to the Office action of August 28, 2001, the present application has been amended.

Brief Explanation of the Amendments:

Claims 1, 6 and 7 are amended. Replacements pages 38-43 replace all claims.

Claim 1 now includes the limitation "wherein said virtual reality environment includes a live video image of the performer".

Dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are resubmitted without amendment.

Claim 8 now includes the limitation "said virtual reality environment includes a live video image of the performer". In addition the minor typographical number insertion in the first line helpfully noted by Examiner is removed; and an inadvertent double inclusion of the clause "at least one participant output device in electronic communication with said immersive virtual reality environment;" is corrected by deleting the second inclusion.